

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 5. 1712.

EVERY Post now brings us fresh Accounts from our New STAGE-PLAY at V—, and the Jest of P—ce gives daily Diversion; Why should not we sport with our own Misfortunes and Disasters, as well as let other People do it; and since the whole Tragedy is turn'd into a Farce, let us see a little, whom we shall call the F—l of the Play; or rather, what if I should say, let us see how all Sides play the F—l in their Turns?

First, really it cannot but look a little odd, to hear the French Plenipotentiaries cry out of Tyrannical Usage; I won't say

but the Cohfederate Ministers may talk to them a little Magisterially, as they call it lately, at Gbertruydenberg; but Tyranical is such a Word, especially to come out of a French-Man's Mouth, against whom all Europe has taken Arms, because of their Tyranny, that nothing can be more Wonderful of that Kind: French Men to complain of Tyranny? It is like Negroes painting the Devil White; Besides, Masters, Tyranny being a proper Word only, in Case of a Government and Subjects, we only wish to have you in a Posture to be Tyrannized over, which we are sorry is not yet; In the mean Time, let the French King but

but quit the Possession of his unjust Conquests, over which he now Tyrannizes, in a manner that has Allarm'd all Europe, and he may soon be free from the *Tyrannical Treatment* of the Imperial Ministers—Indeed the French Ministers should have been the last to have talk'd in that Dialect.

Well, — *Punctilio* now turns, it seems, upon two small Particles of Wonderful Signification, viz. UPON a Negotiation, or INTO a Negotiation : The Préposals of France were sufficient Ground to enter upon a Negotiation, but not sufficient to enter into a Negotiation ! — Wondrous are the Illustrations of great Things by small ; let us look into it a little. *Jack* Invited *Tom* to his House, and he comes TO the Door, but never ask'd for him, and goes Home again : Next Time *Jack* meets him, the Dialogue began thus.

Jack. Why, Friend *Thomas*, Did not I invite you to my House ? And did you not promise to come such a Day ?

Tom. You did so, *John*, and I accepted your Invitation, and came exactly at the Time, according to my Promise,

Jack. How can that be, *Thomas* ? I was not from Home all Day, and I expected you to Dinner ; pray, Who did you see at my House ?

Tom. No-body.

Jack. Who did you ask for ?

Tom. No-body.

Jack. Did you knock at the Door ?

Tom. No.

Jack. How did you perform your Promise then, *Thomas* ?

Tom. Punctually, *John*.

Jack. How can that be ?

Tom. I did all you Invited me to.

Jack. What do you mean ? Did not I invite you to come and see me ?

Tom. No, not a Word of it.

Jack. What did I invite you to ?

Tom.

You Invited me to come UNTO your House, and I promised to do so, and I have performed my Promise ; but you never Invited me to come INTO your House, nor I never promised it.

Jack.

You are a Supercilious Coxcomb, *Tom* ; I thought you had not been so Foolishly nice,

Tom.

I cannot help that ; you should have been plainer in your Invitation.

And so *Tom* and *Jack*, instead of a Friendly peaceable Visit to one another, fell to scolding, made a Quarrel of it, and as the Learned think, they fought till they were tir'd on both Sides, and then *Tom* would go to see *Jack* again, without so much Starch, and such straining his Litterals as he did before.

Now did not these two Fools deserve to be laugh'd at for this Ridiculous Work ? And is not this very Thing a doing in a certain Place in the World ? Were not the Effects of the Ridiculous Formalities, among you Folk on the other Side, to be Bloody and Fatal, with what Satisfaction could I expose the Folly and Absurdity on both Sides ? But as it is, I think they deserve the Resentment of those that seat them there, rather than the Banter and Satyr of the People.

If the French have no need of Peace, no desire to Treat, Why all the Address, all the Management ? Why Application to so many of the Confederates, and at last to England, to procure a Treaty ? If, on the other Side, they are come to this Treaty with a sincere desire to End this Bloody War, Why stand upon the Ceremony of Treating by Word or Writing ? Why afraid or ashame'd to make Offers ? Why not make such Offers at once, as may be a sufficient Ground to Encourage immediate Conferences ?

On the other Hand, If the Allies are met with a sincere Design to End this Bloody War,

War, Why not set about it heartily, and enter into an immediate Negotiation, the nearest and shortest Way to bring it to a Period, or at least the nearest Way to try whether the French are sincere or no?

Suppose the French give in an Answer in Writing, Do any one think it will be such, as shall immediately be Subscrib'd to by the Allies? And that all the Confederates shall Consent to it? —— Indeed, I doubt not — Well, and *What then?* *Why then,* they must come to Conference at last —— And what need is there for all this Costoty? What a Jesting and Playing is here with the Blood of Armies, and the Welfare of Nations?

We are told, that some of the Confederate Ministers were of the Opinion, that they should enter upon a Negotiation, and that these were Germans; it is unkind they had not told us who they are that were so much willinger than the rest to wave Pueffilo's, and come Honestly to the Point.

But the Emperor's Plenipo's oppos'd and carried it —— I do not think I wrong the Imperialists, if I say, that the Resistance with which they came to the Treaty, implies rather a Desire to break it off, than continue it to a Peace; nor are the Reasons remote why such a Confederacy should be made; let those who know all how different a Foot the Emperor makes War, from all the rest of the Confederacy, be to seek for a Reason for it, if they can.

Nay let them go back to the Treaty of Nimeguen; Did the Emperor ever come into the Peace, till he could not help it? Some blame the Dutch for making a Separate Peace at that Time — Do such know, first, that they were not able at that Time to hold out the War? Was not the Prince of Orange come to the View of lying in the last Dutch, as his Highness call'd it, of the Liberties of his Country; and if they had

held on till the Emperor would have made Peace, must they not have fought it on to this Day?

Nay, let any one go back to History of Fact, and tell me, when, since Charles V. Time, did the Emperor come willingly into any Peace? — I need not tell you the Reasons, after you have Esquird who has been at the Charge of the War, and who possesses and expects all that is, or is to be Conquer'd.

I observe one of our News Papers says, the Emperor, &c. is going to send a Memorial either, to Answer several Reflections made upon his Person and Conduct, and to Demand Reparation; for my part, I shall be glad to see it, why should any one Affront his Majesty? I have nothing to Answer for on that Head; I have never said any Thing Disrespectful of his Imperial Maj:ty's Person, if I have, I'll Answer for it — But this I'll say now, Unless His Imperial Maj:sty alters the former Conduct and Confabulations of the Imperial Court, &c. New Measures, and is less Govern'd by the Jesuits than his Predecessors have been, I shall expect no Blessing on the Peace or on the War, as far as it concerneth them; when I hear he makes his Hungarian Provinces free from the Tyranny of the Romish Ecclesiastics; when I hear he restores the yet delay'd Privileges of the Silesians; when I hear that the fourth Article of the Treaty of Reswyck is adjusted; when I hear the Jesuits have less Influence at Vienna, than formerly; then I shall hope for better Things from this Emperor than we found before; but I must be allow'd to wait till then.

Mean Time, I wish they would be Honest at V—z, and play with us no longer; either let us Treat heartily, or Fight heartily; for I fear Dallying at one, should end in Dallying in the other.

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